

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: XFN IS, RO
SUBJ: GOR STATES POSITION ON MIDDLE EAST FLARE-UP

1. TWO-THIRDS INTERNATIONAL NEWS PAGES TODAY'S EDITION
SCINTEIA IS DEVOTED TO MIDDLE EAST. HEAD ITEM IS GOR
OFFICIAL STATEMENT RELEASED THROUGH AGERPRES, MAIN POINTS
OF WHICH ARE:

-- EXPRESSION OF "TOTAL DISAPPROVAL" OF ISRAELI "AGGRESSIVE
ACTION" AND REJECTION OF "PRETEXT INVOKED" BY GOI AS
HAVING NO BASIS AND CONSITUTING NO JUSTIFICATION FOR
THE AGGRESSION COMMITTED;
-- REJECTION OF ANY TERRORIST ACTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE
DIRECTED AGAINST "PEACEFUL CIVIL POPULATION" AS
INCOMPATIBLE WITH REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE OR FITH FOR
NATIONAL LIBERATION; COUPLED WITH REITERATION THAT SUCH

ACTS DO NOT, HOWEVER, JUSTIFY ARMED AGRESSION AGAINST

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"NEIGHBORING INDEPENDENT STATE, A MEMBER OF UN;"
-- FIRM DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE END TO ISRAELI MILITARY
ACTION AND "WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT DELAY" OF ISRAELI
TROOPS;
-- REITERATION CARDINAL POINTS GOR POSITION ON ME:
PEACEFUL APPROACH BY ALL STATES; POLITICAL ACCORDS TO
LEAD TO ISRAEL WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES;

RECOGNITION PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING RIGHT TO THEIR OWN STATE.

2. LENGTHY, UNSIGNED (AUTHORITATIVE) EDITORIAL RESTATES ABOVE POINTS AT GREATER LENGTH, BUT INCLUDES AS WELL:

- STRONGER CONDEMNATION OF TERRORISM, WHICH IS ALL THE MORE "UNACCEPTABLE AND REPREHENSIBLE" BECAUSE OF TENDENCY TO SPREAD ON INTERNATIONAL LEVEL; TIED INTO "CRIMINAL ACT" OF ALDO MORO'S ABDUCTION;
- EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL NEGOTIATING PROCESS "BEGUN BY PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT" WITH PLEAS TO ISRAEL TO SUSTAIN PROCESS AND AVOID ACTS THAT WOULD DESTROY SEARCH FOR PEACE;
- CALL TO "ALL PEOPLES OF THE AREA" TO GET BEHIND EFFORT FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION;
- MENTION OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE OF RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE, WITH PLO PARTICIPATION, AND FOR UN ROLE IN PROCESS.

3. RELATED IS NEWS ITEM ON TALKS BETWEEN P.M. MANESCU (A WEEK NOW IN SYRIA, AND HAFEZ AL ASSAD NOTING:

- "IDENTITY OF VIEWS" OF CEAUSESCU AND ASSAD ON MAJOR WORLD PROBLEMS,
- "CONVERGENCE OF OPINION" ON BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR ME STEELEMENT,
- ASSAD'S APPRECIATION OF CEAUSESCU'S INTEREST IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ME AND HIS "JUST AND CONSISTENT POSITIONS",
-- ASSAD'S WARM THANKS" FOR GOR POSITION ON CURRENT ISRAELI MILITARY ACTION.

4. COMMENT: REACTION IS PRECISELY WHAT ONE WOULD EXPECT FROM GOR. DISAPPROVAL OF ISRAELI INVASION OF LEBANON IS CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL, BUT TONE OF STATEMENT AND ESPECIALLY EDITORIAL IS ONE OF DISMAY RATHER THAN ANGER.

GOR IS GENUINELY DISTRESSED BY ACTION WHICH IT SEES AS THREATENING SADAT INITIATIVE TO WHICH CEAUSESCU HAS SO FULLY COMMITTED HIMSELF AS WELL AS PROVIDING AMMUNITION TO THOSE WHO QUESTION GOR'S UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL, AND VIOLATES PRINCIPLES WHOSE STRICT OBSERVANCE ROMANIANS CONSIDER NO LESS RELEVANT AND VITAL IN CONTEXT THEIR OWN SECURITY. FOR ALL THEIR FRANKNESS, STATEMENTS ARE RESTRAINED AND APPEALS ARE DIRECTED TO ALL PARTIES. GOR OBVIOUSLY DESIES TO STRIKE BALANCE THAT WILL PRESERVE ITS CREDIBILITY WITH ALL SIDES AS RESPONSIBLE FRIEND WHO ACTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STRONGLY HELD PRINCIPLES.

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